

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING October 9, 2012

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street on October 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mayor Rudy Burgess called the meeting to order and presided.
2. David Sage, Minister of Grace Community Church, gave the invocation.

Council members  
present:

Mr. J.R. Burgess  
Mrs. Beverley Dalton  
Mr. Bill Ferguson  
Mr. Jay Higginbotham  
Mr. Michael Mattox

Council members  
absent:

Mr. Ronald Coleman  
Mr. Charles Edwards

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager  
Mr. Dan Witt, Assistant Town Manager  
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director  
Chief Clay Hamilton, Police Department  
Deputy Chief Ken Walsh, Police Department  
Mr. John Eller, Town Attorney  
Mr. John Tomlin, Public Works Director  
Mrs. Megan Lucas, Economic Dev. Director  
Mrs. Mary Hall, Administration

3. Mayor Burgess asked if there were any questions regarding the work session minutes of September 11, 2012 and minutes of the September 11, 2012 Regular Council meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Mattox, seconded by Mr. Ferguson that the work session minutes of September 11, 2012 and minutes of the September 11, 2012 Regular Council meeting be approved as presented.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Rudy Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

4. Review of Invoices
5. Financial Statements
6. Public Comment

Mayor Burgess asked if anyone not on the agenda would like to speak.

Mr. Steve Watson, 516 Darrell Lane, Hurt, addressed Council stating he was speaking on behalf of the concerned citizens in the Hurt community in regards to the Staunton River Bridge between Main Street, Hurt and Altavista. He stated the pedestrian bridge has been closed for several years forcing pedestrians to walk in the traffic lanes and requested the communities come together and contact VDOT for a solution to this problem before someone is injured or killed. Mr. Watson presented Council with a letter that he has sent to the *Altavista Journal* asking citizens to send a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation to take action.

Mayor Burgess took a moment and recognized Mrs. Lillian Gillespie, Mayor of the Town of Hurt and welcomed her to the meeting.

Mr. Mattox requested that both Councils, Town of Hurt and Town of Altavista, create a joint resolution requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation address this problem as it has gone on too long. Mr. Mattox stated he has been in contact with Mr. Don Austin regarding the safety of this bridge. Mr. Mattox asked Mrs. Lucas if she had had the opportunity to talk to Senator Warner.

Mrs. Lucas advised she had spoken to Senator Warner’s staff.

Mr. Mattox also suggested that the resolution be forwarded to the Pittsylvania County and Campbell County boards of supervisors. He stated this situation has been tolerated for a long time and the bridge has now become dangerous.

Mrs. Gillespie noted that she and Mr. Coggsdale have written letters to the Virginia Department of Transportation in regards to the bridge. Mrs. Gillespie stated that Campbell County and Pittsylvania County have contacted VDOT in the past as well. She felt it was time to follow up with VDOT again on the situation.

Mayor Burgess asked Mr. Coggsdale to draw up the resolution.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned what was the problem with the bridge? He stated he knew it had some rotten boards.

Mr. Coggsdale stated it appeared the metal was deteriorating

Mr. Ferguson stated he has had the opportunity to look under the bridge and he did not see that much damage to the bridge and added that it was mostly rotten boards.

Mrs. Dalton stated an engineer’s assessment was needed.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned where the estimate of a half a million dollars to repair the bridge came from.

Mr. Coggsdale replied VDOT. Mr. Coggsdale advised he had received a letter from someone with VDOT and that the entire bridge was in bad shape.

Mr. Mattox stated that it went beyond the walkway of the bridge that the entire bridge is rated deficient and noted in his conversation with Mr. Don Austin he realizes that the bridge is in need of repair and they are waiting for money to be appropriated.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson, second by Mrs. Dalton, that the Town Manager draw up the resolution in regards to the repairs to the Staunton River Bridge and that it be sent to as many people as need be.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Rudy Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

7. Special Items or Recognitions

a. Audit Presentation

Mr. David Foley, Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates addressed Council in regards to the recent audit. He was the audit manager for the recent audit. He

went over the recent audit with Council. An unqualified opinion statement was issued on the town's financial statement, which is the cleanest opinion an auditor can give on financial statements. Also audited was the town's compliance with its major federal grants and that audit was clean as well. There were no noted issues that the town needed to improve on. It was felt that the town was in good strong financial standing with a general fund balance of over \$9.5 million.

Mayor Burgess stated this spoke well of staff and commended the Finance Director, Mrs. Shelton and her staff.

b. Region 2000 Local Government Council and Economic Development Council Update

Mr. Coggsdale introduced Mr. Bryan David, Executive Director of the Local Government Council noting the Town of Altavista is a member of the Region 2000 Partnership, which is comprised of the Local Government Council, Economic Development Council, Center for Advanced Engineering and Research, Technology Council, Workforce Investment Board, and Young Professionals of Central Virginia. The Town contributes funds for the operation of the Local Government Council and Economic Development Council. Mr. Gary Christie, Executive Director of the Local Government Council and Mr. David provided in Council's packets reports of activities of their respective groups.

Mr. David addressed Council, thanked them for their support of Region 2000 Local Government Council, and highlighted some of the information in these reports. He noted Mrs. Lucas would be a welcome addition to the Town of Altavista.

8. Public Hearings

9. Committees

a. Council Committees

i. Finance Committee

Vulture/Buzzard Issue

Mrs. Dalton advised at last month's Council meeting, staff updated Council on citizen complaints regarding vultures/buzzards in several areas of Town. Staff has been seeking some options in regard to dealing with this issue. The Town has received a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit which would allow the Town to cull up to 35 birds. Staff also reached out to the USDA in regard to their experience with other localities in dealing with this situation. Mr. Dan Witt, Assistant Town Manager, met with a USDA representative to discuss additional options. Based on the Finance Committee's discussion of the existing situation, they propose the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for utilization of USDA services for dealing with the vulture/buzzard issue. The funding of this request would require a budget amendment with the funds coming out of General Fund Reserves.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Mattox that a "not to exceed" appropriation of \$10,000 be approved to address the vulture/buzzard issue.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if the buzzard situation could be handled internally.

Mrs. Dalton stated one thing that has been learned is when shooting at the buzzards they tend to leave and return and felt the USDA has a more comprehensive approach, a broader base approach. She noted this was a

real issue even though it sounds a little flippant but these birds are huge and can be intimidating.

Mr. Mattox mentioned that these birds are destroying property.

Mr. Higginbotham stated he did not see why Council could not allow the police department to try initially. He did not feel the USDA would hold back any secrets and should be able to tell Council what they plan to do and we tell them what plans we have to handle this internally. He stated he would be hesitant to have hunters come in and felt the police department could handle it safely.

Mr. Mattox said this could be a two-week process. He stated we would be going after the birds where they are roosting now. He said \$10,000 was the upper limit and it was not anticipated that it would take that full amount but the problem needs to be taken care of.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Rudy Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	No
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

Strategic Work Plan

Mr. Coggsdale advised the recently adopted Strategic Work Plan, under the "Financial Health and Sustainability" aspiration sets forth a goal (Goal #3) of revision of the budget process. Key Task/Activity #2 states "Identify goals and objectives for the budget through an annual budget input/work session with Town Council and interested citizens" and includes a Target Date of October 2012. The Finance Committee proposes that a budget input session be scheduled to provide citizen input to the budget for FY2014. The appropriate time for scheduling the input session would be over the next several months, so as to provide an opportunity to receive the input and decide how or if it should impact the budget deliberations (Goal 3).

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Mattox, that a citizen budget input session for the FY2014 Budget be scheduled.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Rudy Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

Updates

Mrs. Dalton advised staff updated the Committee on efforts to review health insurance options for consideration during the FY2014 budget process and provided information requested by the Finance Committee regarding other communities' policy in regard to meals tax percentages and the rebates provided to businesses.

ii. Police Committee

No report.

iii. Public Works Committee

Mr. Ferguson advised the Public Works Committee met and discussed the following items.

Chamber Request (Train Station)

Mr. Ferguson advised he and Mrs. Patty Eller, President of the Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce, have talked several times in the past about the replacement of the tables and chairs in the Train Station. The existing 1997 agreement between the Chamber and the Town indicates that replacement of such items is the Town's responsibility. He mentioned at this time, staff is working on identifying vendors to submit quotes for these items and anticipates bringing a recommendation back next month.

Charlotte Avenue/5th Street intersection

Mr. Ferguson advised there has been ongoing discussion about the "dip" that exists at the intersection of Charlotte Avenue and 5th Street. Staff has looked at the situation and feels that two potential options exist for addressing the situation. The first would be milling the pavement on Charlotte Avenue that leads up to the intersection to reduce the "dip" as vehicles turn off of Fifth Street on to Charlotte Avenue. The second would involve the installation of a concrete, U-shaped trough, which would be covered by a metal grate, across Charlotte Avenue at the low point where the two roads join. He noted Option #1 would be less expensive than Option #2; however, it does not deal with the issue from both directions. Staff would like any input from Council, so that an option can be implemented in the near future. He noted any improvements would be funded through the State Highway Funds received from VDOT each year.

Mr. Higginbotham asked Mr. Tomlin why a 12 inch elliptical pipe cannot be installed in the dip area and then add to the height by paving.

Mr. Tomlin stated the problem is the area is only 6 to 7 inches deep.

Mr. Higginbotham suggested bringing the pavement up.

Mr. Tomlin advised it would create a hump in the other direction.

Mr. Higginbotham suggested bringing the whole street up.

Mayor Burgess stated bringing the street up would put more water into the ditches.

Mr. Higginbotham felt a Class 3 or 4 12 inch elliptical pipe would solve the problem.

Mr. Coggsdale noted this is the reason for this discussion to seek other options.

Mr. Tomlin stated the problem would be if you built the pavement up, it would push water back to Main Street. He noted the water is currently flowing to Fifth Street.

Mr. Higginbotham stated there needs to be a drop inlet to run the water towards the river and storm drain lines need to be installed.

Mr. Tomlin stated that was correct but there was no drop inlet.

Mr. Higginbotham stated the problem will be there until some storm drains are installed.

Mr. Coggsdale asked if Council was proposing to look at a storm drain system for that area.

Council was in the consensus to look at the bigger picture of the storm drain system for the Charlotte Avenue area.

Mr. Coggsdale mentioned staff would report their findings at the November Council meeting.

#### Solid Waste Collection Discussion

Mr. Ferguson advised Staff updated the Committee on the feasibility of privatizing the Town's solid waste collections. With the impending replacement of the Town's solid waste vehicle (one arm bandit) in FY2015 at an estimated cost of \$300,000, and future replacement of the solid waste cans, staff felt this was an appropriate time to review this issue. Preliminary research indicates that potential privatization could possibly realize a small savings, but could possibly create other issues related to staffing and control/level of service. Mr. Ferguson noted based on the discussion of the Public Works Committee, it is recommended that privatization not be pursued at this time.

Mr. Tomlin stated numbers have been put together for individual cost for residents and vendors. He stated it is questionable if privatizing is the route to go; the only way to cut cost is to reduce personnel. He stated these people not only pick up trash but perform other task; such as snowplow work, Uncle Billy's Day, come in during emergency situations, call duties. Mr. Tomlin felt these duties were just as important as the daily tasks they perform. Getting rid of the solid wastes, we would lose the truck and the knuckle boom which is a very important tool. Mr. Tomlin referred to the incident in June stating that if we lost the knuckle boom truck, we would pay premium dollar to have someone come in and can clean up the town. He stated he did not have the total of the savings by privatizing but felt it would be in the best interest of the town to keep the solid waste. This would keep personnel, keep equipment and keep control.

Mr. Higginbotham asked Mr. Tomlin if he had received any complaints.

Mr. Tomlin replied he had very few complaints in regards to solid waste.

Mr. Coggsdale stated staff was not advocating a change but it was the perfect time to look at the analysis of solid waste. He noted in the next year or two it would be time to look at replacing the solid waste vehicle at a large price.

Other topics discussed:

Amherst Avenue Paving- Middle of October

New Employee: Danny Kirby

#### iv. Utilities Committee

No report.

v. PCB Remediation Alternatives Committee

Mr. Higginbotham advised Dr. Sowers had provided a preliminary report for his initial testing and on the same day Dr. Licht provided his most recent report. BioMarine Remediation visited the site and took samples. Mirimichi Green and EarthNet continue to analyze samples and do bench top testing. He stated there are five entities that are working with the town and are interested in the lagoon. He noted there is still an issue with the muskrats and asked Mr. Tomlin and Mr. Bond to work together to resolve this issue. Mr. Higginbotham requested Council authorize the payment of airfare for Dr. Jason White, Ph.D., referred by Mr. Steve Rock, Environment Protection Agency. Dr. White has performed three PCB test at no cost to the town and it has been suggested that if a work session could be put together Dr. White attend. Mr. Higginbotham asked if the Town Manager could coordinate the airfare for Dr. White to come down and visit the lagoon.

A motion was made by Mr. Higginbotham, seconded by Mrs. Dalton, to authorize payment of airfare and any other expenses the Town Manager deems appropriate in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.

Mr. Mattox asked what Dr. White would do while he was here.

Mr. Higginbotham stated Dr. White would validate what was being done and hopefully run some tests for the town free of charge; he noted these tests could cost as much as \$1,000 a piece.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Rudy Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

a. Appointment

i. Economic Development Authority

10. Unfinished Business

11. Town Manager’s Report

a) Project Updates

**VDOT Enhancement Project and Downtown Utility Replacement Project  
Pittsylvania Avenue Intersection Improvements**

Mr. Coggsdale distributed to Council a letter from VDOT granting the Town federal authorization to bid on the streetscape and the intersection project. Now ready to move forward with bidding this project.

**WWTP Emergency Overflow Pond**

Discussed previously in meeting.

b) Reports

- i. Departmental
- ii. Others

c) Other Items as Necessary

d) Informational Items

a) Matters from Town Council Members

Mayor Burgess asked if there was anything else to bring before Council.

No one came forward.

b) Closed Session

Mr. Coleman moved that the Altavista Town Council convene in closed session in accordance with the provisions set out in the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended,

Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) regarding discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for appointment to the Economical Development Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. J.R. Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

Council went into closed session at 8:08 P.M.

Notice was given that council was back in regular session 8:12 P.M.

FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Mattox, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adopt the certification of a closed meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the town council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the town council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the town council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the town council.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. J.R. Burgess	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes
	Mr. Mike Mattox	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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J.R. Burgess, Mayor

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J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Clerk